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A PROCESS FOR THE IN SITU EXTRACTION OF OIL FROM SHALE BEDS AND SIMILAR FORMATIONS

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The present invention refers to a way of extracting oil from shale rock and similar beds in situ by means of channels which cut through the shale strata, are supplied with heat for the heating of the shale bed, and which are separated from the outlet boreholes formed in the shale by means of shale rock sections in between. The object of the invention is to achieve an improvement of this established procedure, in particular with regard to the quality and composition of the extracted products, which is essentially obtained by embedding heating elements which are preferably heated electrically, in heating boreholes, and which have smaller cross sections than the cross sections of the boreholes and by introducing into the interspace between the channel wall and the heating element thus obtained a filling that transfers heat from the heating element and the shale and simultaneously counteracts or prevents, respectively, a flow of the oil products gasified from the shale in the direction towards and along the heating element.

The invention will be more thoroughly described below with reference to the modes of implementation as shown in examples illustrated in the enclosed figure, and other accompanying characteristics of the invention which will also be discussed.

Figure 1 illustrates a section through a part of shale bed, in which the arrangement of a heating element installed according to the invention for the accomplishment of the process is shown. A vertical section through a rock formation according to a modified design is shown in Figure 2, and a flat view of this latter design is in Figure 3.

In a shale bed, 2, vertical channels, 4 in Figure 1 and 9 in Figures 2 and 3, are drilled, in which heating elements are empedded. These can consist of coiled pipe 44 according to Figure 1, equipped with inlet 32 and outlet 36 for a hot medium, gas or steam, which then remains separated from the surroundings during its bassage through the coiled pipe 44. The pipe 44 can in addition be designed as an electrical resistor and function both for the fluid conduction of the medium mentioned and for the development of heat accompanying an electric current. With the design according to Figure 2 an electric heating element 17 is used. After the heating element has been inserted the channels are filled with backing sand a maleable substance, respectively, such as cement, clay or other suitable filler. The channels can be closed at the upper ends by collars 21, 28 which must necessarily be cemented into the rock foundation. On top of the shale bed 2 there is often an overlying stratum of lime 47 (Figure 2) with a thickness of several meters. Then the electrical resistance is only active within that portion of hole 9, which is surrounded by the oil-bearing shale. In other words, the electric current at the level of the lime layer is conducted through low resistance wires and therefore thermoelectric heat is not developed here to an appreciable extent.

Besides the channels mentioned above, exhaust holes  $\underline{8}$  according to Figures 2 and 3 are made in the shale bed, through which the

products formed during the dry distillation [carbonization] are evacuated, and which consequently do not contain any heating element. These exhaust holes  $\underline{8}$ , which are sealed from the limestone at the top by collar  $\underline{27}$ , are connected through ducts  $\underline{52}$  to a condenser which is best cooled by either air or cooling water.

At the surface expanse of the shale bed, channels 9 and 8, respectively, are arranged in such a way, as exemplified in Figure 3, that a heat-supplying channel 9 is surrounded by a number of exhaust holes 8. It is particularly advantageous to carry out the heating of the shale bed so that a wave of heat is transmitted horizontally through the shale bed, for example in the direction from the line of holes 40 in Figure 3 towards the line of holes 41 through a successive connection of the heating elements. "When this heat wave in part of the shale bed reaches a temperature of about 300°C, or prior to this, the shale begins to release combustible gases which in part are condensable and in part not condensable and which are conveyed to a condenser, common to a plurality of channels 8 which separates the former from the latter." The incondensable cases can be used, for example, for the preneating and heating, respectively, of a new zone of the shale bed with an arrangement as depicted in Figure 1. The duration of the degasification periods may be adjusted to the desired degree, by such variables as the distance between the holes, which can be, for example, 1/2 to 2 meters. The maximum temperature of the mentioned heat wave can amount to approximately 500°.

The hydrocarbons formed during the distillation process in the shale rock include condensable products from the lighest petroleum [gasoline] to the heaviest oil. Because the heating channels according to the invention are filled, the result is that the hydrocarbons are driven in the direction of the outlet channels 8, and thus away from the hot heating elements. Otherwise, of course, the hydrocarbons would find their way to these elements to a large extent, especially in the lower part of the shale layer because of the high rock pressure prevailing there. The extraordinary

advantage is thus gained that an unwanted cracking of the oil products is essentially avoided. The heating method according to the invention therefore allows recovery of a considerably greater percentage of high-grade gasoline products than with presently familiar methods.

While a shale bed section is being supplied with heat, an expansion of the shale sets in, at least in the beginning, in the longitudinal direction of the heat supply channels, and thus in such a direction as to cross the shale layers. If a number of such channels are simultaneously heated then these create within the shale mass static pillars of heat with a greater height than that of the colder shale mass located in between them. This shale mass therefore becomes affected by forces directed in a vertical direction, the effect of which is to separate the different strata of shale from one another, so that the combined vertical displacement of these plus the gaps formed between the strata of shale approach a configuration that corresponds to the shale layer at its highest temperature around the heated channels. In a cross section the shale layer assumes the appearance shown schematically in Figure 2. In the other hand the shale layer within zones 54 limited by the dotted lines 53 in Figure 3 of the shale mass shows a falling temperature from the holes 9 to the holes 8, and within the resulting temperature differences the degasification can be considered to continue at different temperatures, for example from 300° to 500°. A certain molecule which is released from the shale mass at point 39 during the dry distillation process will on its way from this point to the outlet hole 8 pass through temperature zones of lower temperatures than that existing at point 39.

The pipe system shown in Figure 1 can be used for different heating purposes by allowing the existing channel in a previously degassed hot zone of the shale bed to conduct a fluid stream by means of pipes laid on the ground. Air, water, steam or other fluids which are heated in the process may then be led to a channel in a shale bed zone where the oil extraction is to be started or is already in progress.

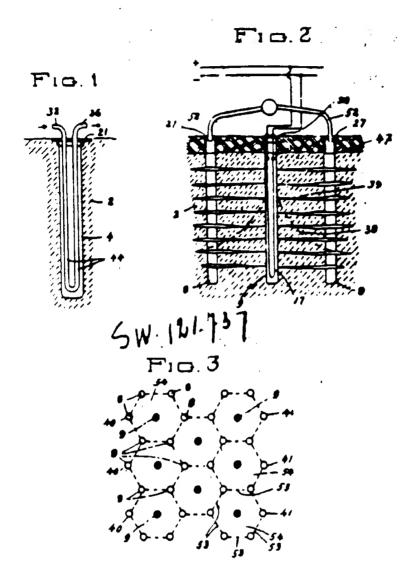
After the rock mass has been degassed, it wholly or partially consists of what is called shale coke, which indicates that after the gases are driven off, combustible carbon remains in the shale. According to the invention the rock mass can be ignited before or after cooling and the residual shale coke can be oxidized to shale ashes by introducing combustion air to the existing channel system. A very slow combustion that persists for several years can in this manner remain in progress, and the heat thereby generated can be utilized for various purposes, such as the heating of shale rock and hot water for homes, steam production, cultivation of plants, etc. According to the invention the cultivation of plants can also be carried out directly on the shale rock and in this way utilize the heat stored in the rock for a great many years.

### Patent claims:

- 1. A process for in situ recovery of oil from shale beds and similar rock layers by means of channels that penetrate the shale strata, and are supplied with heat for the heating of the shale mass and which are separated from the exhaust holes formed in the shale by means of shale bed sections in between, characterized by heating elements being embedded in the heating channels, which are preferably heated electrically, and which have smaller cross sections than the cross sections of these channels, such that the interspace thus obtained between the channel wall and the heating element may be provided with backing sand that transfers heat from the heating element to the shale and simultaneously counteracts or prevents, respectively, the flow of oil products gasified from the shale in the direction towards and along the heating elements.
- 2. A process according to claim 1, characterized by the interspace being filled with a cast compound.
- 3. A process according to claims 1 or 2, characterized by the fact that a heating element in the form of a pipeline is brought

down into the heating channels, and the inner part of the pipeline, through which is led a hot medium, is entirely separated from the channel and that the heat supply to the pipeline is also produced electrically.

- 4. A process according to one of the previous claims, characterized by the fact that the channel system made in the shale bed is utilized for regenerative heating of the rock mass in which channels in a previously degassed hot zone of the shale bed are connected with pipelines over the ground and are allowed to conduct a medium which is heated in this zone, and also characterized by the fact that channels in an untreated zone of the shale rock are directly or indirectly supplied with energy utilized in this manner from the previously mentioned zone.
- 5. A process according to one of the previous claims, characterized by the shale coke remaining in the shale rock after the degasification is combusted to produce shale ashes by introducing air into the available system of channels.



## PATENT Nº 121 737 SVERIGE

BESKRIVNING
OFFENTLIGGIORD AV KUNGL
PATENT- OCH REGISTRERINGSVERKET



## KLASS 5 a:41

BEVILIAL DEN L'APRIL 1748 PATENTID FRAN DEN 18 OKT 1740 FUBLICERAT DEN 35 MAD 1948

Ans den " . 1930 nr 3195 1930

Hartill en ritning

## SVENSKA SKIFFEROLJE AKTIFLOLAGEL OLLIBRO

# Sätt att utvinna olja ur skifferberg och dylikt in situ.

Uppfinnare : F. I jungation

Foreliggande uppfinning hautor sig till ett satt att utvinna olja ur skifterbeig och dylikt in situ medelst skifferlagien skarande kanaler, vilka tillforas varme for uppyarmining av skiffermassan och vilka aro skilda från i skiftern utformade avloppskanaler medelst meltanligg inde partier av skifterberget. Upphuman a ceser att åstadkomma en förhattring av denna kanda metod speciellt i avseende på de utvunna produkternas beskaftenhet och sammansattning, vilket vasentligen ernås darigenom, all i uppvarminigskanaleras nedforas varmerlement, vilka foretradesvis appearanik på elektrisk vag, och vilka hava mindre tvarsektionsarea an dessa kanaleis tvarsektionsarea och att i det så erhållir i mellancummet meilan kanatyaggen och varmedementet anbringas en tyllmassa, som formedlar varineovergang mellan varincelementet och skiffern och samfidigt mytverkar resp. forhindrar en stromning av de ur skiffern forgasade oljeprodukterna i riktning mot och fangs utined varingelementet

Uppfinningen skall nedan narmare beskrivas under hanvisning till å lufogade rilning som exempel visade utforingsformer av densamma, varvid även andra uppfinningen kannelecknande egenskaper skola angivas.

I fig. I visas en sektion genom ett parti av ett skillerberg, i vilket är anbragt ett for sattets genomforande enligt uppfinningen amordnat varmeelement. I fig. 2 visas en Sertikalsektion genom ett bergparti enligt en modifierad utforingsform och fig. 3 en planvy av denna senare utforingsform.

Lett skitferberg 2 åro nedborrade vertikala kanaler, i fig. I betecknade med 1 och i fig. 2 och 3 med 9, i vilka varmeelement anbringas Dessa kunna utgöras av en rorslinga 11 enligt fig. 1, försødd med inlag 32 och avlepp 36 för ett hett medium, gas eller ånga, som davvid under sin passage genom rörslingan 44 år skalt från omgivningen. Boret 44 kan darjande vara utformat som elektriskt motstånd och fungera såval för genomströmning av del namnda mediet som för överbringande av värme genom elektrisk ström. Vid utföringsförmen enligt tig. 2 användes ett elektriskt

varmeelement 17 Sedan varmeelementet nedlofts, uttyllas kanaderna med en massa respgjulmissa, sasom cement, iera eller avid jkanaderna kunna upptilt vaca telsfurna evi lock 21, 28, som lampfigen cementeras a sy a berggrunden. Ovinpa slafferberget 2 - atoverlagral ett kalldager 47 - 11g, 2 - a eller amaktighet av manga meter, vacara det triska motstandet endast ar verfasinat enerden del av hafen 9, som år avgiven sy alolpeforande skillern. Den elektriska eller almingar som niva med kalldager almingar som niva med kalldager alsiedate och darfor har icke a ggver på menammivatd utstracknim.

Formloai de rovamamada karabe na applactas kanader 8 enligt 112-2 och 3 i scadziberget, genom vilka de vid baridestillati e realistrade produkterna avledas och vilka dega neke mismina nagon appværana zagorati ning Dessa kanader 8, som uppværana zagorati slutna av lock 27 da grunn en en zagor 22-torbundelse med en konderssa, ad 22 ande ligen kan vara huttkyld eller avast syrd avkytvatten.

Lytutstrackningen av det skill berge von skull asverkas, ambringas kamater 2 f 80/8 t ex pa sitt som framgar og og stolar en varmetilltorselkanat 9 omgives ever eggeavloppskanale: 8. Det ar sarsieft forderaldigt att genomfora skillerbergets uppvarming, se all en vag av varme horisonfelit torepasses genom skillerbeiget, bes a rikhning fran haicolon 40 r fig. 3 mot habraden 11 genom su. 🖘 cessiv inkoppling is variacelementen Natdenna varmevas i ett parti av skitternerget natt en temperatur av omkring 300 - eiler tide gare, horjai skillern avgiva bi umbara gaser, som dels am komlenserbara dels oktordenserhara och som infedas i en for ett tle fat somalet 8 genieusam kondensor, som avskiljer de form fram de senare. De okondense Carta gover na kunna tiley anyandas for for-yesp inpp varining av en ny zon av skillerberget vol uttoringstormen entrat fig. 1. Avgasnings periodens fidslangd varieties i ouskad grad, ht a. Sammanhang uide med det pecifan halep Valida avstandet som t ex kan vara (1912)

meter. Den namnda varmevagetes maximitemperatur kan uppga fill omkring 500

De vid destillationsprocessen i skutterberget bildade kolvatena omfatta kondenserharaprodukter fran den fattaste bensinen till den tyngsta oljan. Genom att uppvarmningskanaforma nu culigt upplimningen ato igentylldaernas, all kolvatena loras i riktning met avloppskamalerna 8, d. v. s. bort fran de heta uppyarmingselementen. Eljest skulle namligen kolyatena i stor utstrackung soka sin vag till dessa element, speciellt i den nedre delen av skifterlagret till foljd av det dar rådande hoga bergtiyeket. Man vinner sålunda den utomordentliga fordelen, aft en icke onskvard spallining eller krackning av objeprodukterna vasentligen undvikes. Uppvarinningsmeloden enligt uppfimmingen medgiver durior en utymning av procentuellt vascuthas mern hogyardiga bensmprodukter an and hit ills lands meloder

Under variosetifilorsein till ett skilferbilgparticipatender anniustone till att borja med en ut adgring av skuttern i varmetilltorselkaadernas langdriktning, vilken korsar skitterlasten Om At antid dylika kanaler samudigt bitya toremal for uppylamming, bilda dessa from skillermassan slaende vermepelare medstorre hordmalt an den mellan desamma belagua kallare skutermassan. Denna skulletmassa blir dans i paverkad av i vertikalidet-, aingen gaende krafter, som strava att skilpde onka stafferlagien från varandra. Så att desses samue integda vertificala mati pius melhan skatterragren uppkomma splatterna narmar sig det, som motsvarar skutterlagret vid dess hogsta temperatur kring de uppyarında kanakana Skitterlagiet far i sektion ett utseemle, som schematiskt visas i fig. 2. A andra sidan uppvisht skifterlagret moni de med streekade bajorna 53 begransade zonerna 54 i lig a av skaltermassan en tallande temperatur felas balen 9 till balen 8 och kan mom de darvid forckronnande temperalin diffeçenserne av ashaugen tankas tortga vid olika temperaturer to extram 300 till 500. En vox moleky), som vid punkten 39 under fort de sullation sprom ssen frigores un skuttermassan koalingi pa sin yag tran denna punkt till averapshalet 8 att passera temperaturzoner. som alla uppvisa lagre temperatur an den. som existerar vid punkten 39.

Det e tig. I visade fedningssystemet kan användas for olika uppvarmningsambamal, genom all en i en redan avgasad het zon av skifferberget befintlig kanal bringas genom över jord lagda fedningar all genomstrommas av ett flindum, t. ex. lutt, vatten eller anga, som harunder uppvarmes och sedan t. ex. ledes till en kanal i en skifferbergzon, där ofjentvinning skall mledas resp. pågår.

Seilen bergmassin oxgasats, består den hell eller delvis ik s. k. skifterkoks, d. v. s. guserma are avderving men beninbirt kol finnæs amur kvor i skriftera. Enligt upptimingen kan bergmassan, fore, eller effer avsvaring antandas och skatterkoksen i densamma fore, hrånnas till skilleraska, genom art namle av forbranningslutt, i det forefutliga, lagnakvestemet. En mycket langsam, under många av pågående forbranning kan på delta satt fortiga och det darvid bildade varmet utivitjas for olika, and måla sasom uppvaranning, ev skillerberg, varmyalten till bostader, ang alstring, vavtodling er d. Vavtodling kan aven enligt upptiminngen med fordet anbringas derekt på skillerberget, som på så salt under en lång toljd av ar kan tilhjodog era sig det i berget magasmerade varmet.

### Palentanspråk

I. Satt att afvinna olja ur siste de i och delikt in sam nædelst slettlerfazien sleit ande kan maa viika tillioras varine ta appvaaa ming av statternerssan och viller av skilde a tile i deist meinming ande partier av skatterberg a kannerecknat daras, all i upps remostastis naternal hedt has varme lemeide halter force tradesvis appreciaires par endetriste sea codi Allka have midne Warschlich are sea meses kamalers tyre a ktr usapro sich att i det so eishader in the amount and or a straight och varne sementet aduen, is de attlinsse Some formedly a various art goth, and the sector ciemental och skillern och see tar stef war resp. Formation of the alteraskittern torgas ice objeproducts in coord from and och langs about various being

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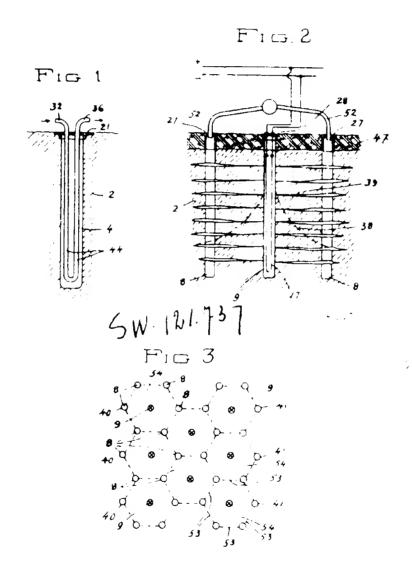
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4. Satt enbergedentarespeaker from 2. Karanetecknat. dar eventt man er uppsværerne kanaterna medrer værmerlement i treamer en rorledning, vars mer ar helt avskolt e ar naten och er me vilken tedes ett te er drum, varjanate værmefallierset frit erfert under aven for på elektriss vær.

I Satt enligt mag a ay de les gar nels intentanspraces is our tecknot de xy, except skillerberget uppragna handsychool en myllpas for regeneralis upprationing as les massan genom all kimaket i un restore ay aid hel zon as skillerberget forbindes social technique over perd och bringes at a storidamias ay ell medium, sore impyvarius sor denna zon och ail kimaler i en skillamitet for av skillerberget friekt eller mebrekt beforas in den förstnamnda zonen på della satt billvaritassor (2015).

5 Satt enligt nagot av de lem gaere forstentanspruken e famueteeknate dates e alte e skitterberget eto e avgasningen kooraa male skitterkoks forbrannes tile skitteriska gen munterande av mit i det förhande, e om le ke

nalsystemet



Swedish specification 121 737

Translation; page 1, second column, 3rd paragrap:
lines 10-17.

"When this neat wave in part of the shale rock reaches a temperature of about 300°C, or prior to this, the shale regime to dive off compustible games which in part are condensable and in part for condensable and which are conveyed to a condensor common to a plugrality of channels which condenser separates the former from the latter."